150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chinese Building The US Transcontinental Railroad

紀念華工建設太平洋鐵路一百五十周年

1865 - 2015

Hosts

The Silent Spike
沉默的道釘

Sandy Chau

Hsing Kung

Kenneth Fong Ph.D

With gratitude, respect and appreciation of our shared history,

Union Pacific is proud to support the 150th Anniversary Celebration

of the Chinese Building the US Transcontinental Railroad.

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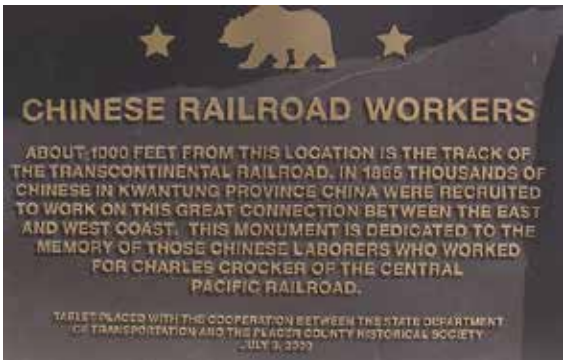
CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS
ABOUT 1000 FEET FROM THIS LOCATION IS THE TRACK OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD. IN 1865 THOUSANDS OF CHINESE IN KWANTUNG PROVINCE CHINA WERE RECRUITED TO WORK ON THIS GREAT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST COAST. THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE CHINESE LABORERS WHO WORKED FOR CHARLES CROCKER OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Between 1865 and 1869, thousands of Chinese immigrant laborers toiled at a grueling pace and in perilous working conditions to help construct the world's very first transcontinental railroad. Without Chinese workers, it would have been impossible to complete this historic expansion effort that played a major role in "Building America." The Chinese laborers worked through natural disasters, wars, and a changing transportation industry, but never received the full attention and credit that they deserve.

Over the last 10 years, "The Silent Spike" documentary film group of Shandong TV & Media Group has been to America dozens of times. They visited historical sites about Chinese railroad workers along the pacific railroad; visited many museums that collect pictures of Chinese railroad workers in California, Nevada, Utah, and other territories in the U.S.. They visited the University of California, Berkeley; Stanford University, University of Reno, the Chinese Historical Society of America and other relevant agencies. The Shandong TV & Media Group also interviewed more than 70 experts in history, business experts, political officials, the descendants of laborers, as well as several small historical town residents. They collected volumes of important historic information about the Chinese railroad workers and plan to share that wealth of gathered history, to help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Chinese Railroad Workers Building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad.

At the end of 2013, the celebration project was fully supported by the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA). APAPA has given of its time and resources to improve the recognition and awareness of this important celebration, recognizing these Chinese laborers and their respectful place in history. The overall celebration includes 7 events/programs from May 15th through December 2015. There are 7 operation subcommittees and 7 event subcommittees that have been established to oversee and carry out the entire project. The endeavor was also supported by many elected officials and communities. There are 5 host/honorary organizations, 21 support organizations, and more than 25 sponsors.

The celebration will pay tribute and share important facets of this long neglected history. In all, we hope that all participants will be able to derive positive energy from learning about the shared past between China and the United States via the construction of or our nation's railroads. This bond helps to establish and strengthen increased friendly relations between our nations, which in turn serve as a foundation to building a stronger and more beautiful America!

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chinese Building The US Transcontinental Railroad

纪念华工建设大陆铁路一百五十周年

1865 - 2015

HOSTS

UNION PACIFIC

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs
APAPA

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

CaliforniaCenter 加州中心

Shandong Film Association
山东省电影家协会

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chinese Building The US Transcontinental Railroad

纪念華工建設太平洋鐵路一百五十周年

1865 - 2015

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Fat Family

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贺 信

纪念华工建设太平洋铁路150周年庆典筹备委员会:

欣闻由贵会筹备的纪念华工建设美国太平洋铁路150周年系列庆典活动即将开幕，我谨代表中华人民共和国驻旧金山总领馆，向活动的举办表示诚挚的祝贺！

中国华工修建美国太平洋铁路具有非常重要的历史意义。华工们作为旅美华人的先驱之一，不仅奠定了旅美侨社生存、发展的基础，更为美国东西部进一步融合、社会和经济发展做出巨大贡献。

希望通过贵会举办的系列庆典活动能让更多美国民众了解并铭记华工的历史贡献，预祝庆典活动圆满成功！

中华人民共和国驻旧金山总领事

2015年3月8日于旧金山

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Washington, D. C.

February 23, 2015

Mr. Steven Lee
Project Founder and Director
Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial
Monument Project

Dear Mr. Lee:

It is with great pleasure that I provide my support for your work on the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Monument Project. This memorial aims to recognize the important historic contributions of between 10,000 to 15,000 Chinese railroad workers, who from 1865 to 1869, helped to construct America's First Transcontinental Railroad.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Chinese railroad worker, and it is only fitting to honor these men with a permanent memorial. It is important that all American's know of the contributions the Chinese workers played in building the infrastructure that linked the East and West coasts of America. This monument, located at the Gold Run rest stop off Interstate 80, at Dutch Flats in Placer County, will be an appropriate memorial as well as a tribute to those who lost their lives.

Thank you for your hard work in preserving the history of Chinese railroad workers. I send you my best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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AMI BERA, M.D.
7TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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SUBCOMMITTEES:
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
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SPACE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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HTTP://WWW.BERA.HOUSE.GOV
AMI.BERA@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

April 15, 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am honored to welcome you to the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala.

This year, we celebrate the contributions of all the Chinese immigrants who led the construction of the most challenging section of our first transcontinental railroad. This historical accomplishment illustrates the diligence and dedication of these immigrants in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad which united our great state of California and other western states to the eastern parts of the country. The rapid growth of our agricultural industry as well as the American economy at-large benefitted greatly from their contributions.

Celebrating historical moments like this are important because we must never forget our origins and the diversity that makes our nation great. From the entrepreneurs and small business owners who drive our economy, to those who have served in our country's armed forces or have dedicated their lives to public service, Asian Americans have had an important and lasting impact on our nation. I'm proud to honor those who have paved the way for our communities and to encourage new generations to lead and enhance the American story and strengthen our great country.

Thank you to the organizers and generous sponsors of this event. I am certain all attendees will enjoy today's festivities.

Sincerely,

Ami Bera

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

MICHAEL M. HONDA
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Greetings from Congressman Michael M. Honda to the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association on the Occasion of the Celebration Gala for the 150th Anniversary of the Chinese Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad

February 28, 2015

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Celebration Gala for the 150th Anniversary of the Chinese Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association.

Since 2001, the Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs Association (APAPA) has empowered Asian Pacific Islander Americans across the country to take leadership positions in civil service. APAPA provides scholarships to young men and women, offers internships to emerging leaders, performs valuable community service, and gives Asian Pacific Islanders a voice in our democratic system by providing education on public policy and encouraging voter registration.

Today's event marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of construction for the Transcontinental Railroad, built primarily by Chinese immigrant laborers. At the time, the laborers were brutally exploited and faced harsh working conditions. Today, we celebrate their indomitable will to create a life for themselves and their families in the United States.

On behalf of the residents of the 17th Congressional District, I thank the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association for organizing today's event and offer my best wishes for its success.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Honda

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

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TED LIEU
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

415 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3976

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0533

May 15, 2015

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest wishes as the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) hosts its commemorative celebration of the "150th Anniversary of Chinese Building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad" Opening Ceremony and Celebration Dinner.

The construction of the First Transcontinental Railway in 1869 was a pivotal part in American transportation history. Through the efforts of Chinese and Irish workers, the First Transcontinental Railway helped connect the mid-west and west together by connecting the two cities of Sacramento, California and Omaha, Nebraska. The tough terrain of the Sierra Nevada Mountains served as a barrier, taking the lives of thousands of Chinese workers during the creation of the railway. The contributions of the Chinese workers remained unrecognized until 1969 when the White House sent a proclamation to the San Francisco Chinese community praising the Chinese workers for their contributions. Over the years, the state of California has adopted resolutions recognizing the contributions of Chinese workers, such as Senate Concurrent Resolution 122 of which I was a lead author. Through the continuing efforts of groups such as APAPA, the Chinese workers' contributions on the First Transcontinental Railway will never be forgotten.

Thank you again to APAPA for your continued advocacy and efforts to remember the contributions of Chinese Americans in our history.

Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Ted W. Lieu

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress, 33rd District

DORIS O. MATSUI
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0506

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 498–5600

http://matsui.house.gov

May 15, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala, held at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, California.

At this event, we join together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments of Chinese immigrants, who – despite facing severe prejudice and hardship – completed the historic task of building the western section of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad. We know that without the efforts of the Chinese railroad workers, the railroad and therefore the progress of our country would have been delayed by years. We are grateful for their perseverance, and honor their memory, sacrifices and truly momentous achievements.

Thank you again for allowing me to send my greetings to the attendees of the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala. It is an honor to have this important event held in my home district, and I hope you enjoy the California State Railroad Museum and all that Sacramento has to offer.

Please accept my best wishes for what I am sure will be an inspiring event.

Sincerely,

Doris O. Matsui

DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

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中国华侨历史博物馆

賀　信

紀念華工建設美國太平洋鐵路 150 周年慶典籌備委員會：

欣聞美國亞裔公共事務聯盟（Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association）發起的紀念華工建設美國太平洋鐵路 150 周年系列活動，將於 2015 年 5 月 15 日至 24 日在美隆重舉行。

首先，向籌備此次活動的全體熱心人士表示由衷的敬意。

150 年前，數以萬計中國人跨越太平洋到美國，參與建設溝通美國東西兩岸的太平洋鐵路。他們不畏艱險，櫛風沐雨，披星戴月，以自己的汗水、聰明才智乃至鮮血和生命 完成了太平洋鐵路全線施工難度最大路段的建設，取得了令人難以置信的成就，對美國經濟社會發展作出了歷史性貢獻。

中國華僑歷史博物館願同美國亞裔公共事務聯盟等致力於中美友好的團體和各界人士一道，為中美兩國人民保護好華工建設美國太平洋鐵路這份珍貴歷史遺產，為中美兩國人民增進瞭解加深交往而不斷努力！

預祝紀念活動取得圓滿成功！

中國華僑歷史博物館

館長 黃純敬

JOHN CHIANG
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

May 15, 2015

Mr. C.C. Yin
Founder & Chairman
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) on the occasion of the "150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration". Today, we pay tribute and give voice to the approximately 12,000 Chinese workers, who with extraordinary determination and resolve, completed the massive west coast segment of the world's first Transcontinental Railroad.

Working in harsh and unsafe conditions for meager wages, these courageous laborers made tremendous sacrifices. Their magnificent engineering feat charted a course and linked our nation to the world - spurring unprecedented commerce and economic progress. Setting their sights on advancing justice and never losing faith or focus on opportunity, these Americans, like so many others, shaped and changed the course of history and built a strong foundation for a brighter future.

As we celebrate their legacy, we are reminded of their strength and all that they endured. On this 150th anniversary, I join you in honoring the remarkable achievements of the Chinese Railroad Workers. I extend to you best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Very truly yours,

JOHN CHIANG
California State Treasurer

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BETTY T. YEE
California State Controller

May 15, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warm greetings to the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) and all guests at the 150th Anniversary of Chinese Railroad Workers Opening Celebration Gala.

This event kicks off a series of celebrations that recognize the crucial contributions of Chinese immigrants that led to the successful completion of the first transcontinental railroad. By being here tonight, you are tapping into the inspirational work of the past and the present. I commend APAPA for empowering thousands of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans through civic engagement, community service, and leadership development.

Congratulations on this milestone celebration, and very best wishes for a memorable gala.

Sincerely,

Betty T. Yee

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VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHAIR

April 15, 2015

Mr. C.C. Yin
APAPA Founder & Chair
4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Mr. Yin,

Tonight, you and the Asian Pacific Islander American community will be celebrating one of our nation's momentous accomplishments – the contributions of Chinese immigrants to building of the first transcontinental railroad.

The dangerous tasks of constructing the most challenging part of the railroad – up and over the Sierra Nevada Mountains – should be forever remembered. Despite low wages and prejudicial treatment, Chinese laborers endured.

Without the hard work of these Chinese immigrants, the West may not be what it is today. We owe them much gratitude.

We thank you for your foresight and leadership in pulling the community together for today's 150th Anniversary of Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala.

It is an honor for Marilyn and I to be a part of this historic festivity.

Sincerely,

Jim Nielsen

Jim Nielsen
Senator, Fourth District

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California State Senate

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DR. RICHARD PAN
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

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Greetings Guests:

As an API Senator from Sacramento County, I am pleased to welcome you to my district for the 150th Anniversary Gala Celebration in honor of the contributions of the Chinese Railroad Workers, hosted by APAPA, California Center, Shandong Film Association, Union Pacific and the California State Railroad Museum.

Between 1865 and 1869, thousands of Chinese migrants labored at demanding paces in dangerous working conditions to help construct America's first Transcontinental Railroad. It is important that we recognize and honor the memory of those that helped to shape the physical and social landscape of the American West that we call home.

Sacramento has provided critical support to people from the API community, and I am pleased to see this tradition continued by celebrating the Chinese Railroad Workers. Nothing makes me more proud to be your representative in the legislature than watching people come together to promote civic participation, foster cultural heritage and strengthen the community involvement.

Let us celebrate our heritage together as we enjoy the festivities at the 150th Anniversary Gala Celebration!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Pan
Senator, 9th District

REPRESENTING THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, CITY OF ELK GROVE AND CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO, AND THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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邱信福
ASSISTANT SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
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JUDICIARY
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SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

April 15, 2015

Dear Guests,

I am pleased to welcome you to the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento for the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala.

On behalf of the California State Assembly, I am proud to honor the Chinese American community and to pay tribute to the Chinese immigrants' contribution to the building of the world's first transcontinental railroad.

Despite facing immense prejudice and deplorable conditions, the Chinese railroad workers were able to complete the most dangerous and difficult section of the Transcontinental Railroad—connecting the nation and allowing for massive economic expansion. This achievement and the continual accomplishments of generations of Chinese Americans, who constitute a significant portion of California and San Francisco, have contributed immensely to the prosperity and culture of our State and Nation.

I would like to thank the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs Association Community Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF) for their work in organizing this tremendous, historical event. Please join me in in paying tribute and celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Chinese railroad workers' building of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad.

Sincerely,

David Chiu

DAVID CHIU
Assemblymember, 17th District
Assistant Speaker pro Tempore

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Assembly
California Legislature

Jim Cooper
Assemblymember, Ninth District

May 15th, 2015

Dear Guests:

It is my honor to welcome you all to the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala. I am delighted to celebrate the contributions made by Chinese immigrants in building our nation's first transcontinental railroad, and in thereby opening the door to California's economic expansion.

As we celebrate this anniversary together, let us recognize both the accomplishments and struggles of the immigrant communities who labored tirelessly to build our state and nation into the economic centers that they are today.

Sincerely,

Jim Cooper

Assemblymember, 9th District

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

KEVIN JOHNSON
MAYOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

May 15, 2015

Greetings!

As Mayor of the City of Sacramento, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the California Railroad Museum for the 150th Anniversary Gala Celebration in honor of Chinese Railroad Workers' contributions to the building of the first transcontinental railroad.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Central Pacific Railroad enlisted the help of Chinese workers to build the most challenging section of the transcontinental railroad over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. When this project was completed, it connected California to the rest of the country, directly contributing to the significant advancements made by some of California's major economies and industries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank APAPA, California Center, Shandong Film Association, Union Pacific, and the California Railroad Museum for organizing this celebration and subsequent events. Sacramento is proud to serve as host and I am honored to celebrate this special event with you and the entire Sacramento community.

Enjoy the evening, and best wishes for a memorable and successful event!

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
Mayor

CITY HALL - 5TH FLOOR
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PH 916-808-5300 • FAX 916-264-7680 Mayor@cityofsacramento.org

CITY OF ROSEVILLE CALIFORNIA

City Council
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678

April 21, 2015

Dear 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee
(Chinese Building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad):

As Mayor of Roseville, California, I would like to offer the support of our entire City Council for this 150th Anniversary Celebration commemorating the Chinese workers' contribution in building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad.

Roseville is a railroad town, home to the largest rail yard west of the Mississippi River. The railroad is engrained in our history. The moving of the Southern Pacific's terminal facilities to Roseville in 1906 turned our sleepy town into one of the most important freight handling terminals on the West Coast.

Since that time, Roseville has grown into an economically diverse city of 130,000 residents and is one of the fastest growing cities in California. But the railroad will always be at our heart.

We owe a great debt for our good fortune to the Transcontinental Railroad and the hard work, dedication, ingenuity and sacrifice of the thousands of Chinese workers who laid track, blasted rock and built tunnels to complete the line. Their work transformed our country and our city. It is perfectly correct to honor and celebrate their contribution.

Sincerely,

Carol Garcia
Mayor

916.774.5362 • *Fax* • 916.774.5485 *TDD* 916.774.5220 • citycouncil@roseville.ca.us • www.roseville.ca.us

Davis
California

PROCLAMATION

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINESE IMMIGRANTS' BUILDING OF THE US TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

WHEREAS, in 1865, 12,000 Chinese were recruited by the Central Pacific Railroad to build the transcontinental railroad, which promoted the development of California and the Western United States; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese immigrants' contributions to the building of the world's first transcontinental railroad was the most challenging section, and is referred to as the Silent Spike; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1865, Chinese laborers took on the monumental and dangerous task of completing the western section climbing up and over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, which was of one of the most remarkable engineering feats of the 19th century; and

WHEREAS, although they faced prejudice, low wages and social isolation, the Chinese railroad workers endured—connecting the nation and opening the door for massive economic expansion; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1869 the Eastern section of the Transcontinental Railroad meet the Western section at Promontory Summit Utah, dubbed "Last Spike or Golden Spike," it finally united California and the other western states to the eastern part of the country. With the newly opened markets in the east, there was rapid growth in California's agricultural production which was later followed by other forms of economic growth; and

WHEREAS, recently, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez delivered long overdue recognition for the Chinese railroad workers by inducting them into the Labor Hall of Fame; and

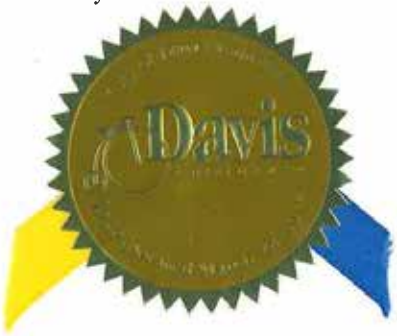
WHEREAS, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs, Union Pacific, California State Railroad Museum, California Center and Shandong Film Association will host a series of events spanning May 15 through December 2015 to celebrate the induction to the Labor Hall of Fame. One of the events will be "A Journey to the Past', during which Union Pacific will provide a unique train fleet from Oakland to Reno, passing through Davis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Wolk, Mayor of Davis, on behalf of the Davis City Council, do hereby honor the Chinese railroad workers and commemorate the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Silent Spike.

Dated: May 16, 2015

Daniel M. Wolk
Mayor

CITY OF DAVIS



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER
JEFF ADACHI – PUBLIC DEFENDER
MATT GONZALEZ – CHIEF ATTORNEY

April 14, 2015

Dear Friends,

As the elected Public Defender of the City and County of San Francisco and honorary event chair, I am pleased to welcome you to the 150th Anniversary Chinese Railroad Workers Celebration Gala.

The story of the Chinese railroad workers is one of accomplishment in the face of tremendous prejudice. Despite deplorable working conditions and increasingly restrictive laws limiting their opportunity, these workers persevered and built the first transcontinental railroad. While laying tracks and building our nation's future, they forever enriched American culture with their vibrant heritage, cuisine and work ethic.

The back-breaking work resulted in a project that proved revolutionary for the economy and development of the Western United States. All Americans, particularly those of us who live in the California, are in their debt.

I am very grateful to the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) for honoring this important chapter in our past while ensuring strong Asian American leadership for our future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Adachi
San Francisco Public Defender

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Community Justice Center
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Bayview Magic
P: 415.558.2428
www.bayviewmagic.org

MoMagic
P: 415.567.0400
www.momagic.org

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APAPA

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
Community Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF)

Empowering and Engaging Asian Pacific Islander Americans

Non-profit organization 501(c) 3 Tax ID No. 55-0849384

Welcome Message from Kenneth Fong

The completion of the transcontinental railroad linking the industrial East and the West in 1869 was a momentous event in transforming the United States of America.

It was well recorded that between 10,000 and 15,000 Chinese laborers were hired by the Central Pacific to do the job eastward from Sacramento. It was arduous and dangerous laying tracks across the hazardous Sierra Nevada Mountains under all kinds of severe weather conditions. It was reported between 10-15% of Chinese died under these conditions. The railroads were finally completed after 4 years. Ironically, there was scant description of the contribution of the Chinese workers in the US history book.

What is the contribution and significance of the Chinese laborers hired to do the job? If they were not hired, would the transcontinental railroad be completed? This is not an easy question to answer, nor is this an appropriate answer to a hypothetical question. The simple fact is clear: the Chinese helped complete the transcontinental railroad linking the East and West for the very first time. The fact that our history books have not fully recognized the contribution of the Chinese workers is a different question that we have to address.

What made the Chinese workers unique in making the transcontinental railroad possible? First of all, one of the Big Four at the Central Pacific, Charles Crocker, had hired the Chinese laborers; then, he and the other members of the Big Four found the workers to be extremely industrious and, to their surprise, physically suited to handle dangerous jobs under difficult conditions. Besides, the Chinese were willing to work for less, providing the desired results with the least cost. Not surprisingly, Chinese workers were found to have some gunpowder blasting techniques that were instrumental in opening up Rocky Mountains. Another one of the Big Four, Leland Stanford, also recognized the unique talents of the Chinese workers and hired them to lay the foundation for the initial construction of the Stanford campus. The rest is history.

It is time for us Americans to chronicle the significant and actual contributions of the Chinese workers in building the US transcontinental railroad from 1865 to 1869. Now after 150 years, let's celebrate it and restore justice to those who had toiled to help transform the West and to integrate the East and West into an economic and political union as we see it today.

Thank you,

Kenneth Fong
Secretary, APAPA National Governing Board

APAPA Headquarters, Regions & Chapters
National & CA State Headquarters 4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95834 Tel 916-928-9988 Fax 916-678-7555
Central Valley Region (Greater Sacramento Chapter) 4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95834 Tel 916-928-9988 Fax 916-678-7555
Bay Area Region (San Francisco/East Bay/Tri-Valley Chapters) 1963 Sabre Street, Hayward, CA 94545 Tel 510-538-2791
Southern CA Region (Los Angeles/Orange County/San Diego/San Gabriel/Youth Chapters) 668 South 6th Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91746 Tel 909-860-4316 Fax 888-661-1063
New York Chapter (New York), 33 Bowery, Room C-202, New York, NY 10002 Tel 212-226-2795 Fax 212-226-0124
Central Florida Chapter (Orlando), 9521 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Suite 101, Orlando, FL 32837 Tel 321-439-5330
Austin Texas Chapter, 6200 Brodie Lane, Austin, TX 78745 Tel 512-658-7687 Fax 512-261-6879

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02/05/15

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Wei Zhang, Executive Chair/Exhibition
Vicki Beaton, Co-Chair/Train Ride
Lucy Oback, Co-Chair/Opening Ceremony
Steven Lee, Co-Chair/Monument Project
Lisa La, Co-Chair/Angel Island Tour
Joel Wong, Co-Chair/Closing Ceremony
Lina Fat, Celebration Gala
John Wong, Hospitality
Marilyn Nielsen, Info Management
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Gordon Hinkle, Media/Promotion
Stephen Zhou, Fundraising/Train Ride
Mike Zhang, Exhibition
Sharon P. Shoemaker, Logistics
Vickie Tran, SF Logistics
Sokie Hul, Administration Support
Shiun-Yi Hsia, Media Support
Tim Lau, Media Support

C. C. Yin, Chair/APAPA Founder

C.C. Yin and his family own 32 McDonald's restaurants in Northern California. C.C. established API American Public Affairs Assn (APAPA) 14 years ago. He served as Board of Trustee for the California State University and the California State Lottery Commission, Board Member of the Citizens Oversight Committee for the California Highway Patrol, California Asian Chamber, and Vacaville Chamber. C.C. has received numerous recognitions and awards at local, state and national level as a statewide business, civic, political and community leader.

Margaret Wong, Chair/Celebration Gala

President and CEO of McWong Environmental and Energy Group, McWong Environmental Technology, McWong International, Inc, Golden California, Inc Margaret Wong has been identified by the Sacramento Bee as the "Business Empress". For the past 20 years she has also served as Sacramento's "unofficial ambassador" to China in her quest to promote better business and cultural understanding between the U.S. and China

Amy Tong, Chair/CEO

Amy Tong serves as the Chief Deputy Director and Agency Chief Information Officer of California Health and Human Service Agency. Amy has been serving in the community as a volunteer since1997. In February 2015, Amy was appointed as the Planning Commissioner to the City of Elk Grove. Amy is also the immediate past National Vice Board Chair and Voters Education Forum Chair of Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs Association (APAPA). Amy has served on the Culture Advisory Board of California State Fair and Exposition, and as a founding member of the Chinese New Year Celebration Alliance (CNYCA)

Wei Zhang, Executive Chair/ Exhibition

Wei Zhang , Ph.D. ,Staff Research Scientist, University of California, Davis. Wei Zhang served as Vice President of Chinese Student and Scholar Association in 1992. President of NewStar Chinese School from 2005-2007.Wei served in Chinese New Year Association since 1999 and as president in 2013 and 2016. Wei Zhang served as Vice-President of Sacramento Capitol Lions Club where she founded Flow Crew, a non-profit dance group. Wei's goal is to serve the community and others. She joined the 150th Anniversary of Chinese Worker Building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad project back in 2013.

Lucy Oback, Co-Chair/ Opening Ceremony

Lucy Oback is Chair of APAPA-Community Education Foundation Internship and Scholarship Program. She served as the National President of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) from 2012-2014 and Statewide President from 2008-2012. Lucy is board advisor to TOFA (To'utupu 'oe 'Otu Felenite Association) Inc.. In 2005, Lucy joined the Sacramento Chapter of the Ong Ko Met Association and served as Vice President. She currently serves as board advisor. In the recent past, Lucy served on the Executive Board of the Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA). She was 2nd Vice President for fiscal year 2004-05 and 1st Vice President for 2005-06. Lucy is retired from Employment Development Department, where she served as a Tax Administrator.

Vicki Beaton, Co-Chair/ Train Ride

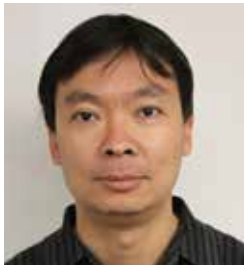
Vicki Beaton worked for many years for the Sacramento Unified School District. Her sideline, besides volunteering in several non-profit organizations, is translation work, including DMV hand book and California Voters pamphlet (Chinese version). Vicki involved in the Sacramento Asian Community and was founding members of many nonprofit organizations, such as Sacramento Chinese Service Center, Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation, and Asian American Public Affairs Association (APAPA). She worked as the Sacramento reporter for the World Journal, largest Chinese newspaper in North America since 1999 to 2014. She joined the 150th Anniversary of Chinese Worker Building the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad project back in 2013.

Steven Lee, Co-Chair/ Monument Project

SF Commissioner, a known Bay Area expert in the night life industry. He was a Board member of the California Music and Culture Association that advocates in 2010. In 2012, Steven Lee was appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to serve as an industry representative on the Entertainment Commission for the City and County of San Francisco and reappointed in July 2014. His track record proves his love of being an advocate for small business & public safety, a supporter of historic preservation, and strives on "Bringing People Together to Solve Problems."

Lina Fat, Celebration Gala

Lina Fat is as head chef since 1974. Lina traveled the world to train under master chefs in many countries and combine flavors from around the globe! Lina is a favorite guest on many local television stations in Sacramento, including serving as a regular guest chef for many years on Channel 3, the NBC affiliate in Sacramento. She penned "The Lina Fat Cook-book: Recipes from the Fat Family Restaurants in 1992, which received rave reviews. Lina launched the Sacramento World Music and Dance Festival in 2007.



Stephen Zhou, Train Ride

Stephen Zhou, Vice President of McWong International Inc., oversees company's daily operation and its several subsidiaries in China.

Joel Wong, Co-Chair/Closing Ceremony

Joel Wong worked as an Industrial Hygienist and an Environmental Consultant. He served as the Chair of the Asian Pacific Affairs Council, President of the Chinese American Political Association and the CAPA Public Affairs Education Fund, 80-20 Initiative's National Board of Directors. Currently, Joel is serving as the President of the San Francisco Bay Area Region of APAPA.

Gordon Hinkle, Media/ Promotion

Gordon Hinkle is the Vice President for Golden California Inc in recent years. He helped to lead trade missions in his role as International Trade Director for the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce to China and also recently joined Governor Jerry Brown in April of 2013 in China. He has served in many public policy and service roles. Gordon also has served as a senior staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives; California State Senate; the California State Assembly; the California State Board of Equalization; and is an Active Major in the United States Air Force, Civil Air Patrol.

Sokie Hul, Administration Support

Sokie Hul is the Operations Manager of Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) at the National Headquarters in Sacramento.

Charles F. Shoemaker
Sac Logistics

Charles F. Shoemaker, Professor of Food Science at the University of California Davis. He served as the department chair for 10 years. He was the co-founding faculty director of the Robert Mondavi Institute of Wine and Food Science, the UC Davis Olive Center, and the Confucius Institute at UC Davis. In 2007, he was awarded "The People's Republic of China Friendship Award." This is China's highest award for "foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country's economic and social progress." Professor Shoemaker was recognized for his many contributions to food science education in China.

Sharon P. Shoemaker
Sac Logistics

Sharon P. Shoemaker, Ph.D. is founding executive director of the California Institute of Food and Agricultural Research (CIFAR), and Advisory Board Member with Global HealthShare® at the University of California, Davis. She was also recognized in 2010 by the Almond Board of California for her role in creating models to develop new products and markets in Asia. Shoemaker continues to facilitate scientific, commercial and educational exchange between California and China and chairs the City of Davis, CA, USA – City of Wuxi (Huishan), Jiangsu, China sister city committee since she founded it in 2001.

Vickie Tran, SF Logistics

Vickie Tran is the Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans Public Affairs Association in the Bay Area Region (APAPA BAR). She served as a Field Representative of the Asian Pacific American Strategic Initiative (APA-SI) for the California Republican Party. She aims to promote the empowerment of Asian and Pacific Islander American in civic and public affairs.

Marilyn Nielsen
Info Management

Marilyn Nielsen was a government executive for more than 30 years serving in the Administration of every California Governor since Governor George Deukmejian. Marilyn retired as the Interim Director and Chief Deputy Director of the California Arts Council in 2012. Prior to the Arts Council, she was CEO of the California Acupuncture Board, the Assistant Deputy Director for the Department of Consumer Affairs, and held a variety of other State management positions. For more than twelve years, she also served as a Director of two County Fair Boards for Yolo and Tehama. Marilyn and husband, Senator Jim Nielsen, are founding members of APAPA. She now serves as APAPA's Director of External Affairs working with corporate sponsors and elected officials.

Xiaojun Li,
Railroad 150 Webmaster
and Graphic Designer

Xiaojun Li is a senior graphic designer and web programmer at the California Department of Water Resources.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Media/Promotion /Hospitality
Alice Wang
Amy Tong
C.C. Yin
Corinne Chee
Crystal Wong
Dawn Satow
Douglas Dransfield
Duper Tong
Gordon Hinkle
Jesse Huang
John Wong
John Oback
Vicki Beaton
Lina Fat
Lucy Oback
Maeley Tom
Margaret Wong
Marilyn Nielsen
Sokie Hul
Stephen Zhou
Wei Zhang

Fundraising
C.C. Yin
Margaret Wong
Marilyn Nielsen
Wei Zhang

Information Management
Marilyn Nielsen
Sokie Hul
Wei Zhang

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Sacramento area:
Charles Shoemaker
Sharon P. Shoemaker

San Francisco area:
Ashley Huang
Joel Wong
Vickie Tran

Administration
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Jay & Patricia Cheng
Larry Lee
Steven Lei
Vickie Tran

Graphic Design
Baoming Wang
Xiaojun Li
Wei Zhang

Webmaster
Xiaojun Li

Opening Ceremony / Celebration Gala
Amy Tong
Bernard Chan
John Wong
Lina Fat
Lucy Oback
Maeley Tom
Margaret Wong

Sightseeing Dream Train Ride
Joe Debbs
Stephen Zhou
Vicki Beaton
Wei Zhang

Historical Photo Exhibition
Cliff Li
Eileen Leung
Lian Duan
Limin Zhou
Wei Zhang

Angel Island Tour / Chinatown Tour
Grant Ding
Lisa La
Sue Lee

Historical Memorial Monument
Alice Wang
Bill George
Joanna Tom
Joel Wang
Steven Lee
Karene Conlin
Sue Lee
Wareen Seeto
Wayne J. Lee

Closing Gala / Lunch Show / Dinner Show
Joel Wong
Steven Lee
Vickie Tran

Closing Gala Committee and Staff
Amy Hsieh
Cynthia Yee
Danny Nguyen
Darlene Mar
Erin Zhao
Gordon Leung
Grace Horikiri
Marlene Luke Hwang
Rick Quan
Steven Dung
Steven Lee
Young Dancers

Menu Design
Elizabeth MacQueen
Rose Chung
Vincent Ma

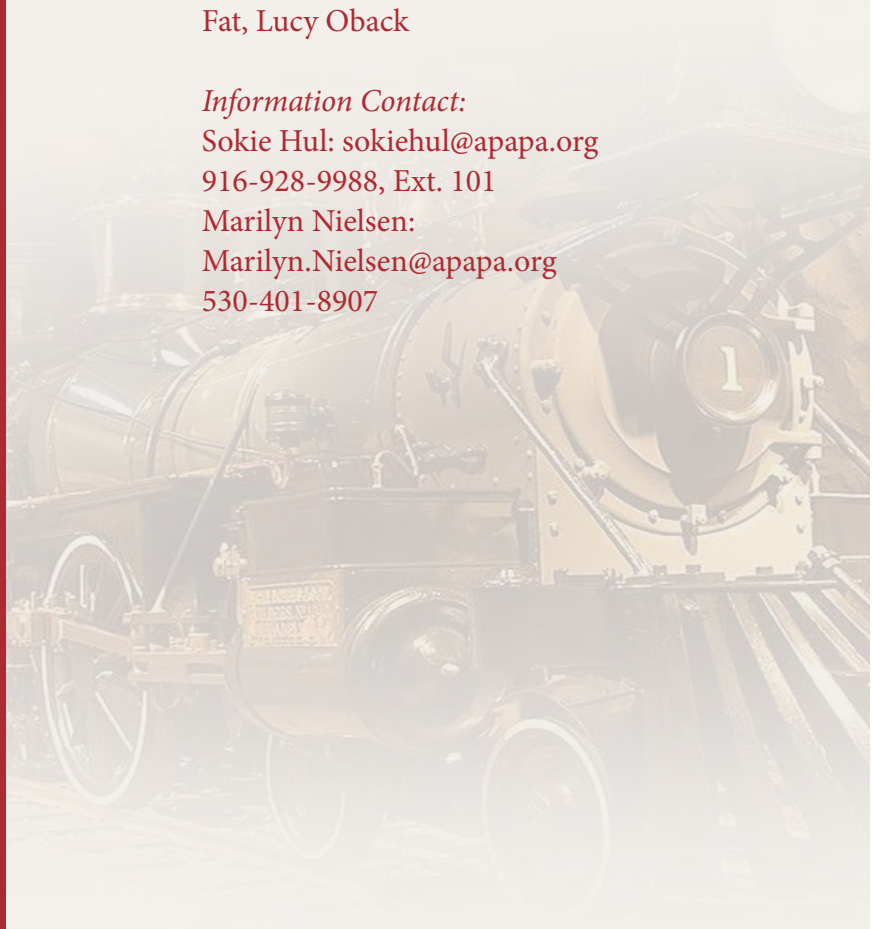
OPENING CEREMONY CELEBRATION GALA

5:30PM — 9:00PM Friday
May 15th, 2015

California State Railroad Museum
125 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
$150/Person

Event Committee:
Amy Tong, Margarat Wong, Lina Fat, Lucy Oback

Information Contact:
Sokie Hul: sokiehul@apapa.org
916-928-9988, Ext. 101
Marilyn Nielsen:
Marilyn.Nielsen@apapa.org
530-401-8907



This year, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the building of our first transcontinental railroad. In celebration of the Chinese immigrants' contributions, APAPA, California Center, Shandong Film Association along with two honorary hosts Union Pacific and California Railroad Museum will organize a series of events. The Opening Ceremony and Celebration Gala will take place at the California Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento on May 15, 2015, 5:30PM – 9:00PM.

In 1865, Chinese workers were enlisted by the Central Pacific Railroad to lead in the building of the most challenging section of the transcontinental railroad up and over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Transcontinental Railroad was completed in 1869. It united California and the other western states to the eastern part of the country. With the new opened markets in the east, there was rapid growth in California's agricultural production which was later followed by industrial growth.

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

During the Opening Ceremony, the documentary film "The Silent Spike" will be shown. Shandong TV Media Group production spent a decade to produce this inspiring movie. The ten minute film is a historic story about Chinese railroad workers, who used their skills and ingenuity to build fifteen tunnels going from Nevada into Utah.

The unveiling of the Monument model will take place that same evening. The monument will be built at Gold Run to recognize and memorialize those Chinese workers who lost their lives during the railroad construction. Chinese Railroad Historical Photos will also be available for viewing.

5:30	*VIP Reception*
6:00	*Photo Exhibition*
7:00	*Program, Special Recognition and Debut of Documentary*
7:30	*Chinese music performance by Grammy Nominee Chen Jiebing Erhu*
8:00	*Dinner*
9:00	*Program Closing*

Maeley Tom

Master of Ceremony

Daughter of parents who came to the U.S. as performers in the Chinese Cantonese opera, has broken glass ceilings for Asian Americans in politics and is described as "one of the most powerful and influential non-elected political figure in the Asian community" by Asian Week. Her career accomplishments include being the only minority woman to hold two of the highest executive positions in both the Assembly and Senate houses of the California State Legislature. Her contributions to three presidential campaigns, 4 gubernatorial campaigns and over 100 local and state legislative campaigns has earned her the nickname as "political godmother" of California's Asian Pacific Islander community. She is the former hostess of Channel 40's Facets community program and a former columnist of the "Capital Watch" column for Asian week. She currently serves on California's State Personnel Board which oversees the civil service system of approximately 250,000 California state employees.

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION

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港式中西餐
粥面大王

HISTORICAL PHOTO EXHIBITION

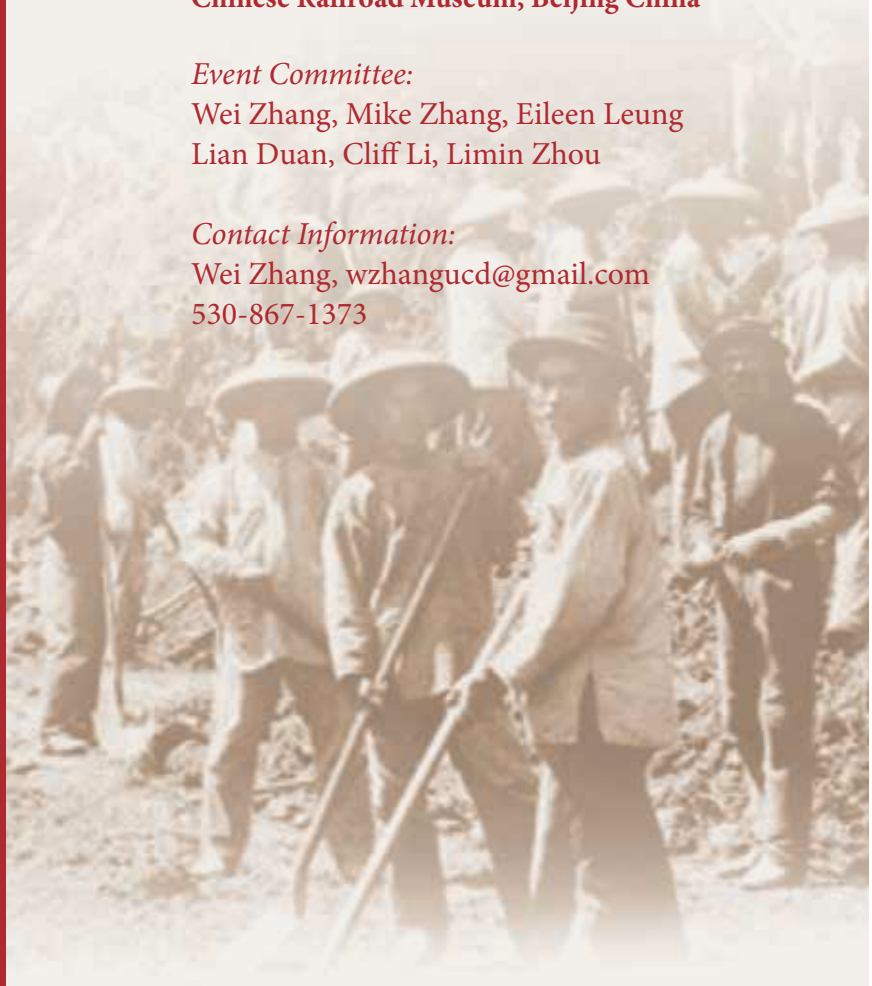
May 15th, 2015
CA State Railroad Museum
during the gala

May 18 - June 19, 2015
Sacramento County Administration Center

May 18 - June 19, 2015
Chinese Railroad Museum, Beijing China

Event Committee:
Wei Zhang, Mike Zhang, Eileen Leung
Lian Duan, Cliff Li, Limin Zhou

Contact Information:
Wei Zhang, wzhangucd@gmail.com
530-867-1373



The Pacific Railway Act, signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, provided Federal subsidies in land and loans for the construction of a transcontinental railroad across the United States. With the ceremonial driving of the "Last Spike" (later often called the "Golden Spike") at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869, the last track of the United States' first crosscountry railroad was laid. This railroad was the beginning of a mechanized transportation network that revolutionized the settlement and economy of the American West, bringing western states and territories firmly and profitably into the "Union." People and goods were transported much faster and cheaper than ever before.

The Central Pacific Railroad (CPR) broke ground on January 8, 1863 in Sacramento, California. Beset with unreliable laborers in addition to a chronic shortage, which resulted in less than fifty miles of track laid, the CPR employed several dozen Chinese laborers in early 1865 in an attempt to solve its labor problems. The superintendent of the CPR objected, protesting that Chinese laborers would be unsatisfactory due to their small stature compared to white laborers. Prejudice also influenced his objections. But

the Chinese laborers proved to be reliable and diligent, getting the work done properly and on time. Then more were hired, from a few hundred to a few thousand. Consequently, the CPR began earnestly to hire as many Chinese laborers as possible by posting advertisements offering employment throughout the American West and soon in Kwangtung (Guangdong) Province in Southeast China, the region from which the early immigrants came. The hiring was facilitated by Chinese labor contractors in the United States and China who would recruit eager laborers, provide for their transportation, and negotiate the terms of employment.

The Chinese in Kwangtung Province were suffering from abject poverty, compounded by internal strife, natural disasters, and the aftermath of the Taiping Rebellion that destroyed much of the countryside. Employment in America provided relief for besieged families who sent their men overseas to earn money to remit home, if not to bring home. Nearly all of the laborers planned to return home when the work was completed.

The hard work to clear and level the land and to build railroad beds, bridges, and tunnels was done primarily by over twelve thousand Chinese laborers under the direction

of non-Chinese supervisors. Initially, the Chinese received one dollar a day, rising to about one dollar thirty-five cents a day in later years. Working six days a week, they were paid about the same as unskilled white laborers. But the Chinese laborers provided for their own food and lodging while the CPR provided food and lodging for the white laborers. Interestingly, unskilled white laborers employed by the Union Pacific Railroad, the company building the railroad tracks from the east to the west, were paid less. A frugal Chinese laborer could save over twenty dollars a month after paying for food and lodging — a "fortune" by Chinese standards. A record of the employees in late 1865 noted about 3,000 Chinese and 1,700 whites working for the railroad. Many of the white employees were in supervisory or skilled positions, which earned them more money than the Chinese.

After the completion of the transcontinental railroad line, Chinese laborers continued to work for several decades on other railroad lines to interconnect the West. Without the reliable and diligent labor of the Chinese in building America's railroads, the development and progress of the country could have been delayed by years. Many risked their lives working in dangerous conditions in which deadly accidents were not uncommon, and hundreds perished in harsh winters of the high mountains. Present day Americans need to remember these early Chinese immigrants who laid the foundation for the West's economic prosperity and America's Manifest Destiny with their sweat and lives. Present day Chinese-Americans need to remember the contributions of their ancestors and to continue the effort to build a great country for everyone.

For the past 10 years, a photo exhibition crew from Shandong

Media Group, China, traveled many times along the Central Pacific Railroad route to explore the Chinese laborers' history, visit local museums and historical sites, and interview descendants of laborers as wells as historians. This exhibition aims to provide a pictorial tribute to these laborers who were the pioneersof global economic and cultural exchange. The spirit of Chinese railroad laborers lives on in their descendants and in the people of America and China.

SIGHTSEEING DREAM TRAIN RIDE

-A Journey Back In Time
The Dream Yellow Train is donated by Union Pacific Railroad
Complimentary breakfast, lunch, and cocktails with a light snack are provided on the train

May 16, 2015
8:00am - depart Oakland, Jack London Station
9:40am - arrive Davis, Amtrak Station
9:45am - 10:15am
Ceremony, Davis, Amtrak Station
10:20am - depart Davis, Amtrak Station
3:40pm - arrive Reno, Stay at Harrah's, Reno

May 17, 2015
8:00am, depart Reno
2:10pm, arrive Davis, Amtrak Station
2:30pm, depart Davis, Amtrak Station
4:00pm, arrive Oakland, Jack London Station

Event Committee:
Vicki Beaton, Stephen Zhou, Wei Zhang, Joe Debbs

Contact Information:
Vicki Beaton
vcbeaton@gmail.com
916-601-7511
Stephen Zhou
szhou@mcwonginc.com
916-718-3383

By end of 1865, the Union Pacific had spent more than $500,000 and laid only 40 miles of track. Building east from California, the Central Pacific bridged ravines with trestles. Ridges were carved and blasted through. There was a chronic labor shortage, as most able-bodied men preferred trying to strike it rich in the gold mines. However, a large Chinese work force, numbering 10,000 or more, originally drawn to California by the gold rush, was eventually drafted into the effort.

By the second year of work on the Central Pacific's construction, nine out of ten of the workers were Chinese." The description from Union Pacific website http://www.up.com/aboutup/history/overview/construction/index.htm delivers information of the important role of Chinese Workers in the construction of transcontinental railroad.

As the largest sponsor and event host, Union Pacific will provide a historically authentic train to celebrate the '150 Anniversary Celebration of Chinese Workers Building US Transcontinental Railroad', May 16th – 17th, 2015.

The historic train includes five guest cars and three staff cars which can accommodate a total 100 passengers. Train will embark at Jack London Square (Oakland) at 8:00AM on Saturday, May 16 and arrive at Davis Amtrak Station at 10:00AM. Train will stop for boarding passengers, and there will be a ceremony on Davis station platform. Then the train will take passengers directly to Reno. Experienced docents will tell the stories about railroad construction and achievement of Chinese Workers 150 years ago. Two complimentary meals be provided on the train. The total journey is about 7 hours.

When passengers arrive at Amtrak Station in Reno, there will be an evening celebration with local communities; passengers will also enjoy free time at casinos and other attractions in downtown Reno.

On May 17th, the same train will pick up passengers from Reno at 8:00AM and return to Oakland via Davis. The Sightseeing Train Ride event will be a very impressive, unique and remarkable journey.

ANGEL ISLAND HISTORIC TOURS

Provided by Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

May 30th, 2015
9:00am Shuttle Pick Up at Hilton Hotel
750 Kearny St, SF, CA 94108
12:45pm, lunch
3:50pm, Shuttle pick up back to the Hilton Hotel
$75 per person

CHINATOWN HISTORIC TOURS

Provided by Chinese Historical Society of America

May 30th, 2015
4:30pm - 6:00pm
$15 per person

Event Chair:
Lisa La, lisalarealtor@gmail.com, 415-866-6411
RSVP by May 15th for May 30th tours

Special Thanks to:
Grant Din of Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
Sue Lee of Chinese Historical Society of America

The Angel Island tour provides an opportunity to visit what has been called the "Asian American Plymouth Rock", where many of our ancestors first spent time on U.S. soil. The tour includes shuttle (or public) to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, a ferry ride to Angel Island, and a shuttle to the Immigration Station. There, visitors will take a tour of the grounds and historic immigration

station, which between 1910 and 1940 processed one million immigrants from 80 countries to the US and those returning to their home countries. They will see the poetry carved in the walls and writings in many languages, restored barracks rooms, and learn about the current renovations which will turn the former hospital into a center for Pacific Coast immigration.

After the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, the Chinese laborers who had built it became scapegoats for national economic problems, and the Chinese Exclusion Acts of 1882-1943 were passed. Because of the Acts and other anti-Asian legislation, it was very difficult for Asians to immigrate to the U.S. Those who still tried to immigrate included "paper sons and daughters," those who were claiming to be children of those who said they were born in the U.S. and therefore had birthright citizenship. The government created lengthy interrogations designed to deport those who did not appear to be legitimately related. When immigrants were denied initial admission, they would go through an appeals process and often during their long waits, would carve poetry into the walls of the immigration station. This poetry has survived many years of neglect, and after a restoration process that lasted several years, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the Angel Island State Park celebrated the reopening of the Immigration Station in 2009.

The tour will begin at 8am with a check-in and continental breakfast at the Hilton Hotel in Chinatown. After the ferry returns to San Francisco (around 1:45pm) the group will proceed to Chinatown for a walking tour led by the Chinese Historical Society of America.

ITINERARY

ANGEL ISLAND HISTORIC IMMITRATION STATION TOUR

9:00am Shuttle Pick Up at Hilton Hotel 750 Kearny St
9:45am Catch the Ferry boat to Angel Island at Pier 41
10:10am Arrive at Ayala Cove, Angel Island
10:20am at Ayala Cove, meet shuttle bus to Immigration Station
10:35am -
Arrival at Immigration Station, meet the Park Rangers for the tour
10:40am–12:45pm -
Guided tours of grounds, immigration barracks, Donor Wall
12:45pm Lunch on the Immigration Station grounds
1:45pm Immigration Station grounds
3:00pm Catch the return shuttle to Ayala Cove
3:20pm Ayala Cove - Return ferry to San Francisco
3:40pm Arrival in San Francisco's Pier 41
3:50pm Shuttle pick up back to the Hilton

HISTORIC CHINATOWN TOUR

4:30pm–6:00pm -
Chinese Historical Society Chinatown Tour by CHSA
Soda, Tea & Coffee at the Chinese Historical Society Museum

MEMORIAL MONUMENT
(Gold Run, CA)
DESIGN COMPLETION RECEPTION

"Build Something Unforgettable"

December, 2015
San Francisco

Project Founder & Director:
Steven Lee

Contact Information:
Steven Lee: steven.lee.ventures@gmail.com
415-720-4208
Joel Wong, joelwong@comcast.net
510-538-4874

MEMORIAL MONUMENT PROJECT

Executive Committee
Steven Lee - Founder / Director
Alice Wang - Executive Administrator
Sue Lee - Chinese Historical Society of America
Wayne J. Lee - Millbrae Coucilman
Wareen Seeto / Joanna Tom - CACA
Bill George - Placer County HS
Karene Conlin - Decendents
Joel Wong - APAPA Bay Area Director

Artist Selection Committee
Jay Xu - Asian Art Museum SF
Andrew Johnstone - Art Panel
Leanne Elrod Rodriguez - Art Administrator
Erin Zhao - Artist Submission Curator

Historians
Gordon Chang Ph.D - Stanford University
Hilton Obenzinger - Stanford University
Denise Khor Ph.D - Chicago University
Sue Lee - Chinese Historical Society of America
Julian Do - LA Beez Media

Creative & Marketing
Stefanos Cassalato - Traditional Media
Angela Pang - Community Outreach
Frank Chui - Overseas Media
Tiara Batle - Social Media
Ben Smith - Web Master

The 150 Year Anniversary of the hiring of the first team of Chinese Railroad Workers to work on the Transcontinental Railroad is this year. With a workforce shortage, this hardworking group of immigrates made it possible for a young nation to undergo a drastic economic transformation when the west was connected to the east for the first time by rail. Though the majority of the labor force on the west construction crew was from China, the Chinese workers were rarely acknowledged for their hard work, ingenuity and the lives lost in the process.

The Chinese railroad workers had nothing in the Sierras to memorialize the thousands who perished while working in the harsh conditions, nor any tribute recognition for completing the job ten days ahead of schedule. Almost forgotten until 2009, the Placer County Historical Society placed a descriptive plaque on a rock, at a rest stop off interstate 80, just before Gold Run, California. Although nice, this plaque is all that commemorates the Chinese workers' contributions of building the transcontinental railroad. Many community members have now come together to build a fitting monument, to pay due tribute to the contribution of these hard-working Chinese laborers, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

Through an open call, 21 applied artists await the decision from a special designated art selection committee of professionals on who will have the honor of designing the monument. With your generous support, the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Monument Project team of volunteers will be able to build an unforgettable monument, a visual educational tool and tribute for future generations, answering who these laborers were, and describing the challenges they faced to connect our nation over 150 years ago.

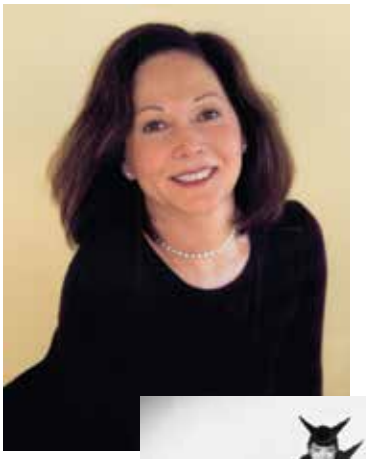
CLOSING GALA LUNCH SHOW/DINNER SHOW *"Generations"*

May 31, 2015
Far East Café
631 Grant Ave, San Francisco, CA 94108

Lunch Show
12:30 pm - Lunch, 1:30 pm - Showtime
$500 10 per level two table or
$650 10 per front table

Dinner Show & Award Presentation
6:00 pm - Dinner, 7:00pm – Showtime
$1000 10 per level two table or
$1200 10 per level one table

Contact Information :
Steven Lee: 415-720-4208
steven.lee.ventures@gmail.com
Joel Wong: 510-538-4874
joelwong@comcast.net



The big buzz is here. "Generations" , May 31st, produced for the Asian Pacific American Pacific Affair's (APAPA) Closing Gala Celebration of the 150 Year Anniversary of the first Chinese Railroad Workers hired to work on the western side of The Transcontinental Railroad.

"Generations" is a live performance music tribute to the historic 1961; five Oscar nominated film Flower Drum Song. The film depicts San Francisco Iconic, Forbidden City Nightclub where the first generations of Asian American dancers and singers of the 50's and 60's entertained. Many of these performers were assumed descendants of the Chinese Railroad Workers. A special Life Achievement Award will be presented to actress Nancy Kwan, star of the Flower Drum Song and the World of Suzie Wong, whose ground breaking career helped open the door to the acceptance of actors of Asian Ancestry in major Hollywood film roles.

Historic Nightclub Floor Show

Generations

A live performance music tribute to the historic 1961
Five Oscar nominated film Flower Drum Song
Far East Café
631 Grant Ave @Sacramento St, San Francisco Chinatown
Lunch Show
Noon – Lunch
1:30PM – Floor Show
Dinner Show & Award Presentation
5:30PM – Dinner
7:00PM – Showtime
8:30PM - Award Presentation

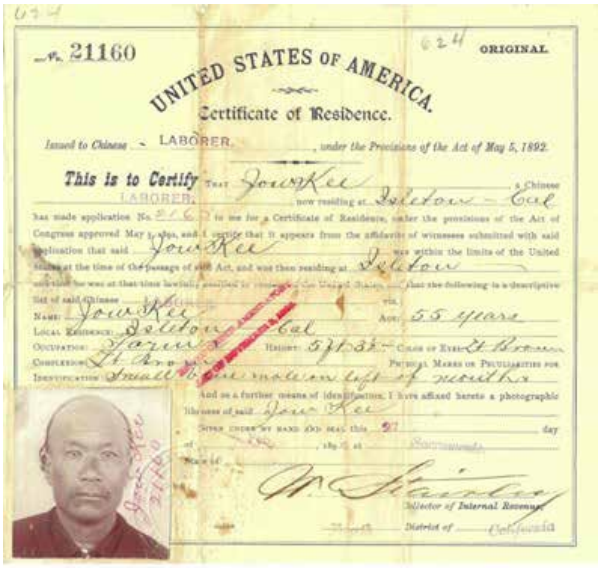
APAPA presentation of
the Lifetime Achievement Award to Nancy Kwan

Special guest appearance at the dinner show by Nancy Kwan, film star of Flower Drum Song and the World of Suzie Wong

CHINESE RAILROAD WORKER STORY

My Great Grandfather Jow Kee

Gene 0 Chan
February 8, 2015



The Chinese workers contribution to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad was generally omitted from American history, such that the second and third generations of immigrants born here in California and else wear in the United States do not know the true facts of this historical under taking.

My name is Gene 0 Chan, Great Grandson of Jow Kee, Chow Yook Kee, aka Jim King on my mother's side. My mother, Lillian Chow King, is the Grand-daughter of Jim King and daughter ofTai King. Tai King is the number 2 son of Jim King.

Jow Kee, aka Jim King was born in Sun Chung Village, Hueng Shan District, China during a period (1840) of foreign invasions, economic recession, and overpopulation. In1855 Jow Kee arrived Gum Shan (Gold Mountain of California) through San Francisco and found work with "White" miners as helper and in the process learned English at an early age. He was one of the few Chinese workers who learned the English language, well enough to help interpret for the gold miners. It is assumed the miners gave him an American name Jim King. Years later as the gold mining slow-down, He went to work for the Central Pacific Railroad in 1866 as Jim King Co. contractor. His name is found on the Central Pacific Railroad payroll log and as contractor he provided crews for the railroad since he can translate for them.

After completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, more than 12000 laborers were laid off in May of 1869 and a great influx of Chinese came to the Sacramento Delta to work on building levees to reclaimed more than 250000 acres of farmland. Having contractor experiences, He, Jim King, became contractor and foreman around the Sacramento Delta building river levees. Between 1869 and into the 1870's, all Chinese crews were employed building the river levees, were paid thirteen and a half cents a cubic yard. During 1873 the all Chinese work gang was gradually displaced by clamshell dredgers. The Chinese workers than turned to the reclaimed land as farmers as their means of support. Jim King with contracting and foreman experiences become a tenant farmer on the Boyd Green's Ranch, one mile north of Courtland, Ca. on Highway 160. He found a young Chinese girl name Hel Shee crying on the street in San Francisco. Her parents sold her to a person who brought her to Gold Mountain for Prostitution purposes. Jim King bought her from her owner and married her. They settled near Courtland on the Boyd Green's Ranch and raised two daughters first than six sons.

In approximately 2005, the Sacramento Railroad Museum invited myself and Lucky Owyang to a meeting with some China dignitary as descendants from the railroad. What a relief, I found a direct connection of Greatgrandfather on the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in the Central Pacific Railroad payroll log. . I feel elated, that His genies must have passed on to me, such that a boy born in Locke (a town built for and by Chinese on leased land) who went to a segregated elementary school can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Such that I was able to work for Aerojet Propulsion Division designing solid rocket propellant grains, conduct interior ballistic performance and analysis, also directed the rewrite of many computer programs needed to analyze the interior ballistics of solid rocket motors. Prior to my voluntary retirement in 1993, I was promoted to Senior Staff as Principal Technical Engineer, Special Project, for the Design Engineering Department.

Congratulations to all who worked on this complex Railroad 150th Anniversary Celebration. The Nameless Chinese workers who built the Transcontinental Railroad deserved to be recognized and acknowledge for their major contributions. Thanks all the descendants for their stories and photos.

My Great Grandfather Lee Han Nan (name means Plum, Sweat, South)

Freeman Lee February 14, 2015

This is the story of my Great Grandfather Lee Han Nan as it was passed down to us from our parents and uncle. As a very young man, my Great Grandfather decided that he was going to Gold Mountain (California) to find work. He had heard in his village that in Gold Mountain they were building a great railroad and there were plenty of work in railroad construction. He decided he could not wait any longer in his poor village and soon left, leaving behind his young bride and his home in the County of Toishan, Guangdong Province, China in the 1800's and boarded a ship to California. When he arrived, he quickly went to work in the railroad construction hoping he could save enough money to send home and also someday return quickly to China and buy a farm and start a family with his wife. However, that was not the case to be. The railroad work soon dried up so he had to turn to farming, the only work he had known in China. He farmed in several states but only made enough money to survive in this land that he first set foot on known as Gold Mountain. The years went by quickly. He sent a letter home asking his lonely wife to adopt a son because by the time he saved enough to go home, they would be too old to have children of their own. She did as he asked. Soon his adopted son (my Grandfather) grew up, married and had children of his own. He built a white home, picture at left, with money sent by my Great Grandfather, the homes on each side have since been rebuilt. The family home was divided into three sections (father and wife in the middle section, two sons' family, one on each side). One of the sons was my father (picture on right). My Grandfather (no picture) eventually died circumstances unknown, in Cuba as a merchant sailor.

After scores of years of farming and still with little savings, my Great Grandfather finally gave up farming and started a new business building crates for farm produce. This worked out well for him. Finally he saved approximately four thousand dollars which was a large sum of money at that time; and after many decades in America, it was finally time to return home.

My Great Grandfather returned to Toisan, reunited with his wife and family, retired, and bought a farm; and with the remaining money in 1931, used it as a down payment to purchase "paper" so one of his Grandsons, my father, could come to America as a "paper son" via the intense interrogation by immigration officers at Angel Island.

The term "paper sons" came about from the Great Earth Quake of 1906 in San Francisco. Immigration documents were destroyed and people were able claim more sons than they actually had and then sold the documents for a high price. It was not easy for the "paper sons" to immigrate to America as they needed to pretend to the interrogators at Angel Island that they indeed were members of that family. My father made it through Angel Island clinging to his "paper family."

We are beholden to my Great Grandfather, a Toisanese (Hoisanese is the real pronunciation), with determination and willingness to leave Toisan, one of 5 "Say Yip" Counties (Hoiping/Kaiping,;Sen Weh; Toisan/Taishan; Enping; and Hocksan) in Southern China and come to Gold Mountain in 19th century to help build railroads; because of this, my father eventually was able to come to America with his "paper family."

It has been a long journey for our family. Starting with my Great Grandfather who worked on the railroad in the 1800's, so he can send for his Grandson (my father) who came to America as a "paper son" via Angel Island, who then married our mom (a war bride) until now, a growing family who truly love and appreciate America's freedom and opportunity.

Also, we humbly extend our sincere gratitude to the committee of 150th Anniversary Celebration Chinese Building the US Transcontinental Railroad for letting us tell our story. All the best, Freeman (descendent of a Chinese railroad worker) and his wife Soo

Wong Sai Jom, Railroad Laborer (1850's - 1928)

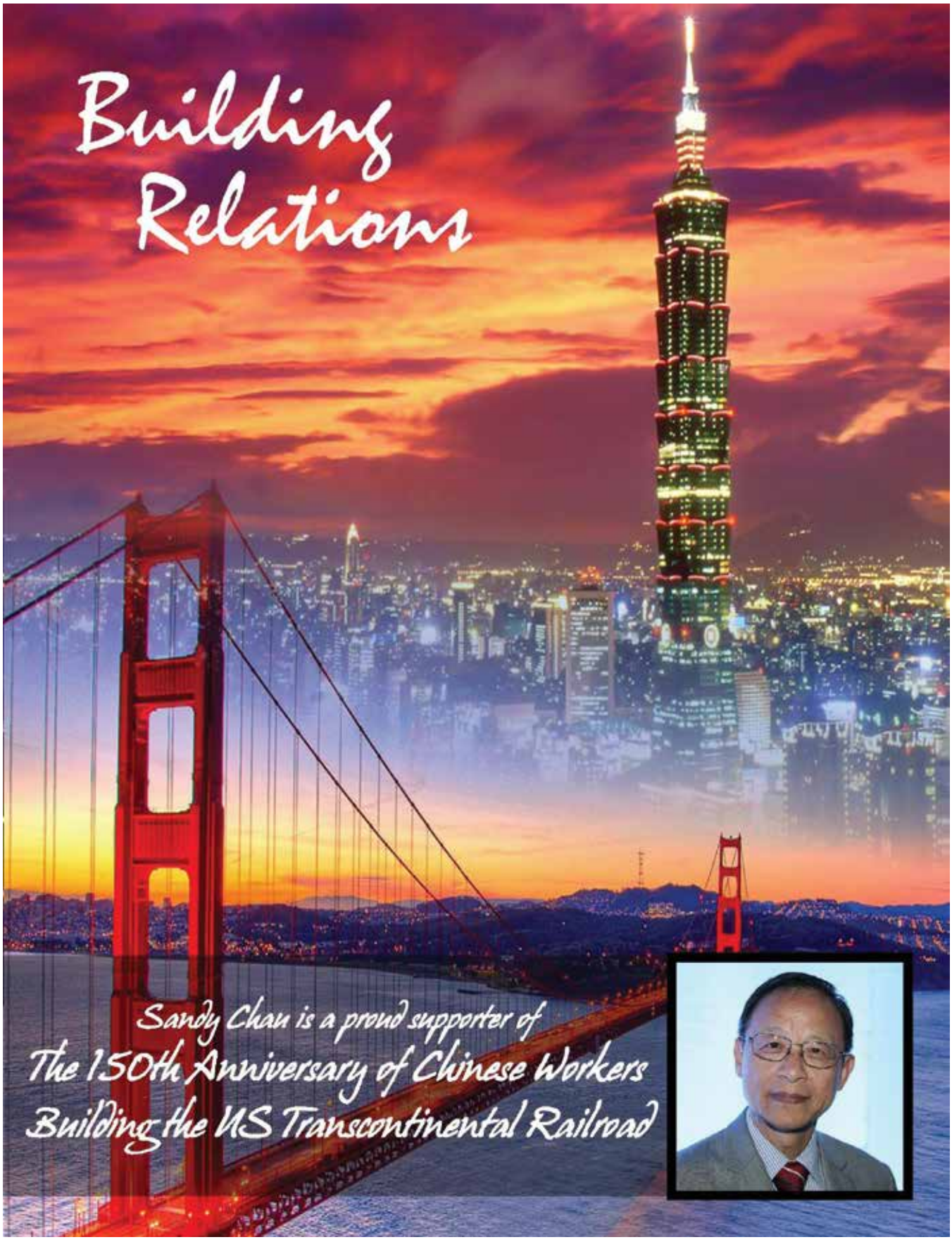
My mother's father, Wong Sai Jom (John Wong) was born in Canton (Guangdong) province, China in the mid-1800's. He, like thousands of his fellow countrymen, was recruited to work on the transcontinental railroad. After the completion of the east-west tracks, he returned to China where he married and started a family. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters in China resulted in the loss of his family and he returned to North America in the 1880's to work on the British Columbia section of the transcontinental railroad. After that was completed, he made his way to San Francisco where he married a 13 year old Chinese teenager. He was 42.

He and his young wife, nee Mary Lee, were among the first San Francisco Chinatown couples to convert to Catholicism by the Paulist Fathers who founded St. Mary's Chinese Mission and they raised their six children in the Catholic faith; all 17 grandchildren were baptized Catholics. He earned a living delivering newspapers while his wife worked in the garment factories and did piece work at home. He passed away at age 72 when his youngest child, Daniel, was only 9 months old.

His oldest son, Frank, an Army private, was killed during WW2 . Their 6th child was Kenneth Wong (1926-1986), the first journalist of Chinese ancestry hired by the San Francisco Examiner. He was known for his humorous columns about local characters and putting a spotlight on common every day people and events in the City.

— Serena Chen

Serena is the daughter of John Wong's 5th child, Virginia, and is his 11th grandchild. She is currently advocacy director for the American Lung Association in California and sits on the Asian Pacific Democratic Caucus of Alameda County board of directors. She formerly produced and hosted an Asian American public affairs program for KTVU (1975-1987), was editor at East West News, a Chinese American civil rights newspaper, and has taught Asian American studies at Laney College.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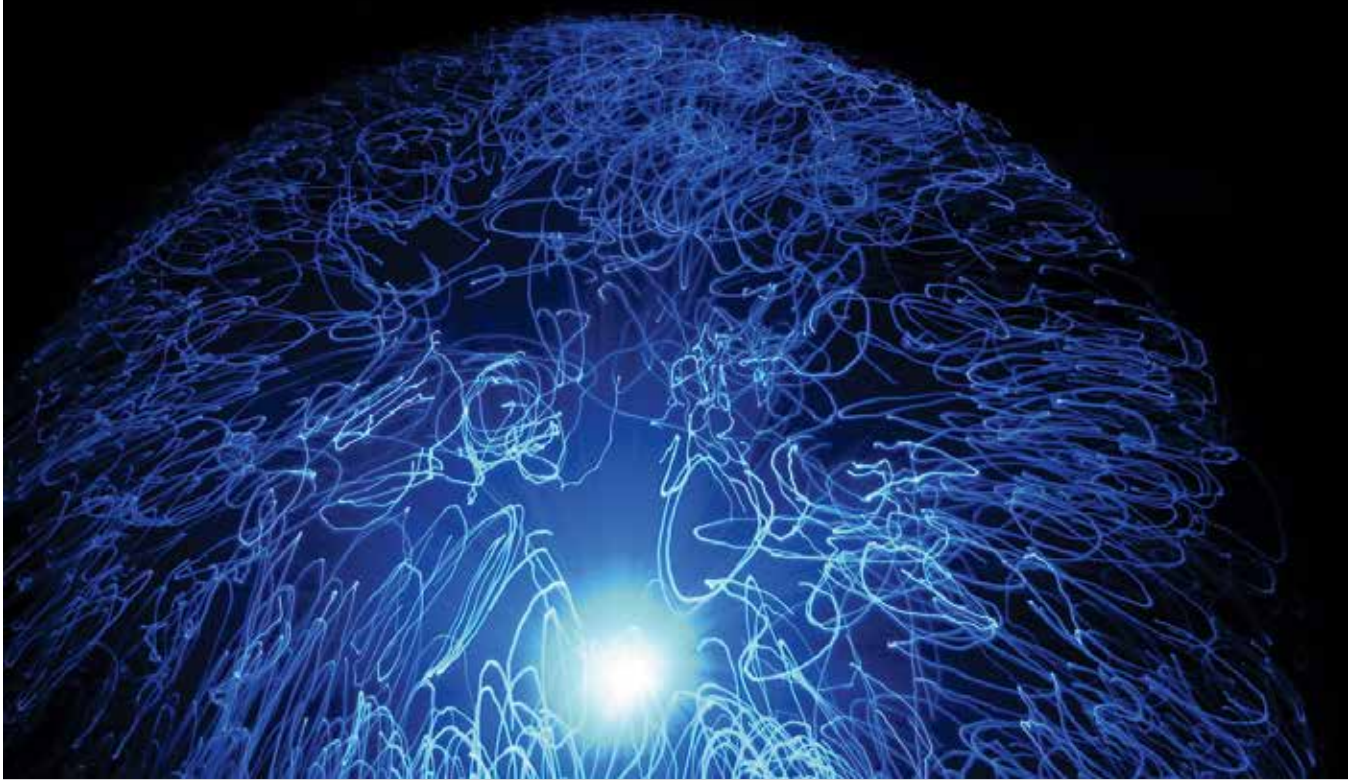

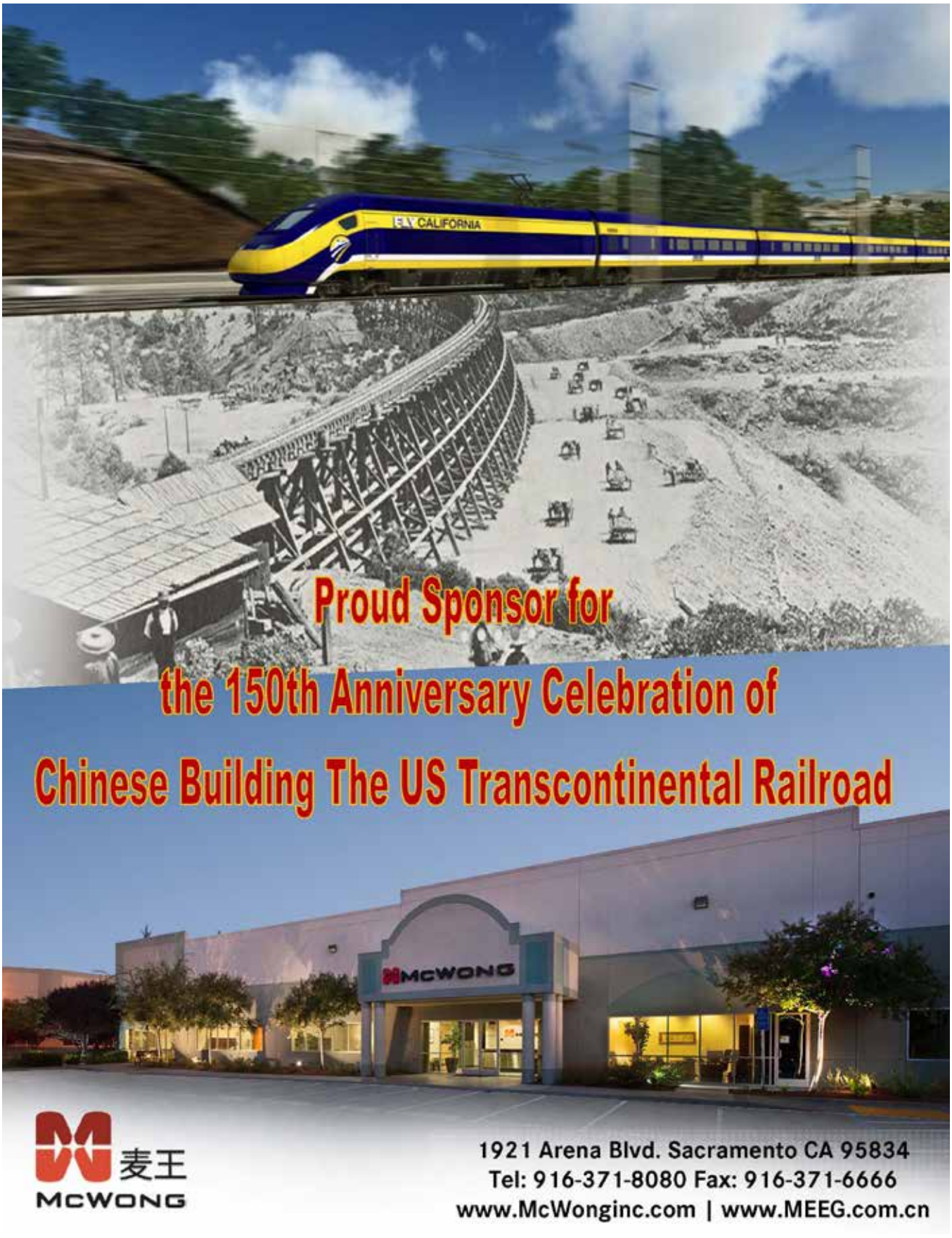
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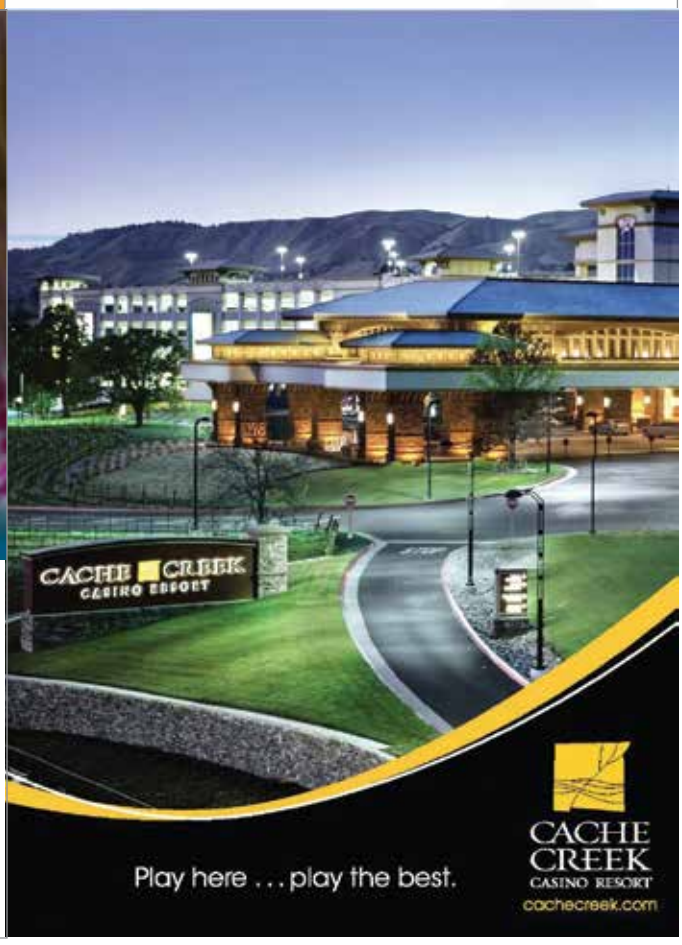

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150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Chinese Building The US Transcontinental Railroad

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1865 - 2015

The Silent Spike

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